

THE INHUMANS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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THE MOST UNCANNY HEROES OF ALL!

THE INHUMANS™



AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS
BROTHER,
I'VE WON--!

**MAXIMUS
HAS WON!!**

**NO ONE
CAN SAVE
YOU, NOW!!**

**INHUMANS
ENSLAVED!**



Hidden deep within the vast Himalayas, there lies a city like none other. Called ATTILAN or THE GREAT REFUGE, it is the home of an artificially-spawned race of beings. Their ROYAL HOUSE, led by the silent BLACK BOLT, embraces members of remarkable super-abilities, among them, MEDUSA, GORGON, TRITON, KARNAK, and CRYSTAL.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE UNCANNY INHUMANS**™

FOR NINE DAYS OF SHADELESS SUN,
NINE NIGHTS OF SHELTERLESS COLD,
BLACK BOLT HAS BEEN... SUSPENDED
HIGH ABOVE THE GREAT SQUARE OF
ATTILAN, FACE AND BELLY DOWN-
WARD TO THE GROUND.

VOICES FROM GALAXY'S END

ONCE A NOBLE SOVEREIGN
REIGNING IN MAJESTY, NOW
REDUCED TO A PITIFUL OBJECT
OF MOCKERY...

FOR NINE DAYS... NO
ETERNITIES... HE HAS
LANGUISHED WITHOUT
FOOD OR WATER,
WITHOUT COMFORT OR
REST, WITHOUT DIG-
NITY OR STRENGTH...

... AND WITH ONLY
BRIEF, PERIODIC
RELIEF FROM
THE RAVINGS OF
A MADMAN...

DO YOU FEEL
YOURSELF
DYING, GREAT
BLACK BOLT?

NO? NOT YET...
WELL, BE PATIENT-
YOU WILL.

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...RELIEF FROM THE CEASELESS
GLOATING OF HIS TORTURER
...AND HIS BROTHER...
MAXIMUS



DO YOU HEAR
ME, GREAT
BLACK BOLT?



YOU ARE GOING
TO DIE-- AND I'M
GOING TO WATCH
THAT PATHETIC
SPECTACLE WITH
GREAT PLEASURE
MY BROTHER...



...BUT NOT BEFORE YOU WATCH THE COMPLE-
TION OF SHATTERSTAR'S ARK!

--LEAVING
THE OTHER
HALE FOR
ME TO
RULE!!

YES, THE CONSTRUCTION IS ALMOST
FINISHED, BLACK BOLT-- AND SOON YOU
CAN WATCH AS SHATTERSTAR ABDUCTS A
FULL HALF OF YOUR SPINELESS SUBJECTS
TO THE ARKE HOMELAND--

THE RAVING--NO LONGER HEARD NOW--CONTINUES AS IT HAS
FOR NINE DAYS OF AGONY...



...NINE DAYS IN
WHICH BLACK BOLT HAS
WITNESSED IN HUMILIATION
THE TOTAL DEGRADATION
OF HIS SUBJECTS.

HE HAS SEEN THEM
FORCED INTO LABOR
UNDER SHATTERSTAR'S
COMMAND...

...CHAINED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPACE-ARK WHICH WILL
SERVE AS THEIR OWN
MOBILE PRISON...



...AND WHICH
WILL LIKELY TRANSPORT THEM TO THEIR DEATHS...
AS A FREAKISH CANNON JIGGER IN A REMOTE GALACTIC WAR
NOT OF THEIR MAKING, OR EVEN THEIR CONCERN.

AND DURING ALL THE NINE DAYS OF AGONY, NOT A SINGLE WORD
OF PROTEST HAS ISSUED FROM HIS CRACKED AND PEELING LIPS...



...NOT A SINGLE
SOUND OF
SUFFERING
HAS WELLED
FROM HIS
PARCHED
THROAT...

NEVER
ONCE
HAS HE
SO MUCH
AS
MOANED

BUT HOW MUCH CAN A MORTAL BEING BEAR? EVEN A BEING
WHO REMAINS MUTE IN FEAR THAT THE DESTRUCTIVE
FORCES HIS VOICE WOULD UNLEASH COULD LEVEL THE
GREAT REFUGE CANNOT CONTAIN HIS PAIN FOREVER!

HE
REMEMBERS
HOW IT BEGAN--
REMEMBERS
A MOMENT NINE
DAYS PAST...

...HIS NAME COMING.

THE BATTLE IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN A VICTORY OF SORTS-- EVEN THOUGH SHATTERSTAR HAD REGAINED CONTROL OF HIS WARRIORS BY THE TIME THEY HAD RETURNED TO ATILAN... RETURNED TO FIND THE GREAT REFUGE IN CHAOS, THE ENTIRE CITY ENSLAVED.

MY LIEGE--
MAXIMUS
HAS
ESCAPED!

WELCOME, MY BROTHER
BLACK BOLT-- WELCOME TO
YOUR FORMER CITY-- THE
CITY I HAVE FINALLY
CONQUERED!!

I... I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

ALL OF ATILAN-- THE ENTIRE CITY--
TAKEN BY MAXIMUS AND HIS SMALL
BAND OF EVIL INHUMANS--?!!

IT SEEMS WE HAD
BETTER BELIEVE IT,
GORGON...

WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH ALL OF YOU?
COULD YOU NOT FIGHT BACK,
YOU GUTLESS WEAKLINGS--?!!

BLACK BOLT HAD SAID NOTHING, OF
COURSE, SEEMING TO PONDERS GRIM
THOUGHTS FROM A GREAT DISTANCE...

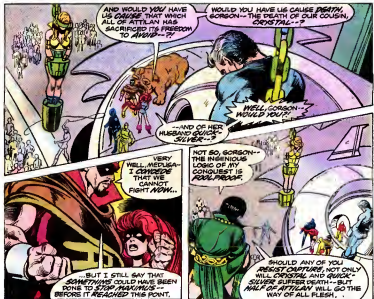
...BUT MEDUSA, AS EVER, HAD BEEN QUICK TO
CONTROL THE SITUATION...

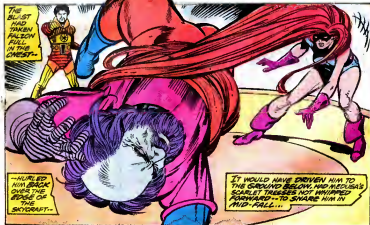
STOP, GORGON-- YOU FOOL!!

MEDUSA--?!!

LET GO-- I HAVE YOU GONE
MAD-- WOULD YOU HAVE US
SUBMIT TO DEFEAT JUST AS
QUICKLY AS THE REST OF THIS
SHAMEFULLY WEAK CITY--?!!

WELL, IF YOU COULD
NOT FIND THE COURAGE
TO FIGHT IN OUR ABSENCE,
THERE WILL BE SOME
FIGHTING DONE NOW--!!







THIS HAD THE DECISION
BEEN MADE, IN SILENCE...



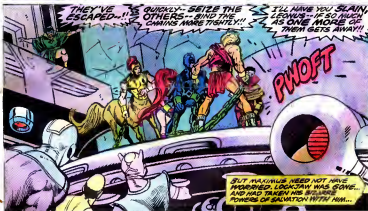
... AND IN SILENCE,
LEONUS HAD CHAINED
HIS FORMER SOVEREIGN...

THEN, AS THE SILENCE GREW HEAVIER AND ASSUMED
A BRITTLE EDGE OF TENSION, LEONUS AND SEVERAL
OF THE OTHER EVIL INHUMANS MOVED WITH CHAINS
TOWARD THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ATTILAN...



BUT NO ONE HAD SEEMED TO NOTICE
LOCKJAW, AS THE GREAT CANINE MANEU-
VERED HIMSELF BEHIND TRITON AND EARNAK...

...UNTIL THE VERY AIR SHIMMERED... AND IT WAS TOO
LATE.



THEY'VE
ESCAPED...!!

QUICKLY-- SEIZE THE
OTHERS-- BIND THE
CHAINS MORE TIGHTLY!!

I'LL HAVE YOU SLAIN,
LEONUS-- IF SO MUCH
AS ONE MORE OF
THEM GETS AWAY!!

PWOFT

BUT MAXIMUS NEED NOT HAVE
WORRIED. LOCKJAW WAS GONE...
AND HAD TAKEN HIS BIZARRE
POWERS OF SALVATION WITH HIM...

THUS, THE OTHERS HAD BEEN LEFT BEHIND, MARTYRS SHACKLED BY THE CAPRICIOUS WHIM OF AN IMPROBABLE GARDNER...

BLACK BOLT: SILENT, AND THEREFORE EMBLEMATIC, EMBRACING IMPRISONMENT PERHAPS AS A NOBLE SACRIFICE OF FREEDOM--OR PERHAPS AS HELPLESS CONCESSION TO FACTS.

AMELUS: HEAD DOWN, NOT IN SHAME OR DESPAIR, BUT IN EMBARRASSMENT FOR HER LORD AND LIFE.

GORGON: FISTS CLINCHED, KNUCKLE-WHITE, TEETH GRITTED TO FRAGMENTING--HIS MIGHT STRAINING TO SHATTER THE BONDS OF HIS ADEASON.

AND FALCON: ALREADY GONE, CARRIED AWAY... SENSELESS.

TIMBERLUS AND MAKUS-- SEARCH FOR TRITON AND KARNAK! CAPTURE THEM!

AND TYLOS HAD THE NINE DAYS BEGIN...

...IN HUMILIATION.

AIREO-- YOU WILL CHAIN MY BELOVED BROTHER TO THE PILLARS NOW! I WISH TO SEE HIM SQUIRM...

AND SO HAD THE NINE DAYS PRESSED...

...IN HUMILIATION, AND IN TORTURE.

BLACK BOLT'S MIND RETURNS NOW, THROUGH A PAINFUL-AIDED HAZE OF PAIN, TO THE PRESENT...

...TO THE INEVITABLE AGONY OF THE AGES AND NOW, CREATED BY THE PAST NINE DAYS...

...AND TO THE GLOATING SOUNDS OF HIS MANIACAL BROTHER'S VOICE.

PERHAPS, MY BROTHER, YOU ARE WONDERING WHY I'VE CHOSEN TO DO THIS...

YOU ARE WONDERING, ARE YOU NOT, BLACK BOLT?

I THOUGHT SO.

I SHALL TELL YOU WHY I HAVE CHOSEN TO SERVE SHATTERSTAR AND THE ARK...

YOU SEE, THEY WISH TO FILL THE SPACE-ARK WITH ONLY THOSE INHUMANS WHO POSSESS EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES--ATTRIBUTES WHICH WILL PROVE VALUABLE IN THE IMPENDING WAR BETWEEN THE THREE GALAXIES...

...AND THOSE INHUMANS COMPRISE ONLY HALF THE POPULATION OF ATTILAN.

THE REST--THOSE WHO ARE INHUMAN ONLY IN APPEARANCE BUT NOT IN ABILITY, OR WHOSE ABILITIES ARE USELESS IN A STATE OF WAR...

...WILL BE LEFT BEHIND--HERE IN ATTILAN--FOR ME TO RULE, BLACK BOLT--ME--MAXIMUS--MONARCH OF ATTILAN!!

AND THE ARK, BLACK BOLT, WILL BE COMPLETED ON THE MORROW--JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR DEATH!!

AND A FURTHER INCENTIVE FOR AIDING SHATTERSTAR WAS TO WATCH YOU SLOWLY DIE, MY BROTHER--SUSPENDED HIGH ABOVE THE ARK, WHICH WILL CARRY YOUR FORMER SUBJECTS TO THEIR DEATHS--

HA HA HA HA HA HA

BELOW HIM, INNOCENTS ARE HERDED THROUGH THE STREETS LIKE ANIMALS.

AND MAXIMUS EXPLODES IN LAUGHTER, NOW MUCH MORE OF THIS CAN ONE BEING ENDURE--EITHER PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY--BEFORE HE...CRACKS...?

SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE FRAGILE GRASP OF REALITY...

HOW MUCH LONGER
CAN THIS CONTINUE,
TRITON--?!!

LOCKJAW'S TELE-
PORTATION POWERS
ARE ALWAYS
UNPREDICTABLE.
KARNAK--AND SINCE
TIME IS SUBJECTIVE
AND ALTERED BY
WHATEVER REALITY
ONE INHABITS, THERE
IS NO WAY OF KNOWING
HOW LONG WE HAVE
BEEN ABSENT FROM
THE "REAL" REALITY--
PERHAPS AN INSTANT,
PERHAPS A MILLENNIUM.

WURF

I WAS UNAWARE
YOU WERE SO
PHILOSOPHICAL,
TRITON...

...BUT NEVERTHELESS, I WISH
THIS JOURNEY THROUGH NIGHTMARES
WOULD END SOON, BEFORE WE--

IT SEEMS LOCKJAW
HAS GRANTED YOUR
WISH, KARNAK. IT SEEMS
OUR JOURNEY HAS
COME TO AN END.

ON AN ICY SLOPE IN THE HIMALAYAS...

THE MOUNTAINS
SURROUNDING
ATTILAN--!

BUT WHY DID LOCKJAW
CHOOSE THIS LOCATION--?

IF HE CHOSE
IT AT ALL,
THAT IS...

THE ANSWER, IF ANSWER IT BE AND NOT MERELY
COINCIDENCE, COMES IN A FLUTTERING SWOOP
OF ETHEREAL BEAUTY...

IRIDIA--!!

THANK AGAIN
YOU HAVE
RETURNED--!
I HAVE SEARCHED
NINE DAYS
FOR YOU...

NINE...
DAYS--?

YES... BUT
WHERE
ARE WE--?



"A BALL OF FLAME APPEARED IN THE SKY ABOVE ATTILAN, STREAKING DOWNWARD..."



"WITH THE POWER OF FLIGHT GRANTED TO ME BY BLACK BOLT, I WAS ABLE TO EVADE THE COMET..."

"...BUT LEONUS, HOWEVER, WAS NOT SO FORTUNATE."



"IT STRUCK HIM FULL IN THE CHEST, SPLASHING WITH THE BRILLIANCE OF A BURSTING SUN..."

"...AND THEN IT EVAPORATED--VANISHED IMPOSSIBLY--LEAVING LEONUS UNSCATHED..."



LEONUS--
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT--?!



"HE SEEMED NOT TO HEAR ME AND, AS IF IN A TRANCE--"

"...HE ENTERED THE PALACE ROYAL."



"I FOLLOWED HIM THROUGH THE LONG CORRIDORS..."



"...TO THE CELL WHERE MAXIMUS WAS KEPT, GUARDED BY STALLION."



WHAT IS IT, LEONUS?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU...?

"...BUT SURROUNDED BY A GLOWING NIMBUS OF CRACKLING ENERGY."

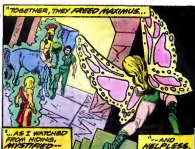
DOWN THE DUN-
GEON STAIRWELL...

"LEONUS UTTERED NOT A WORD AS HE FACED WOODENLY FORWARD..."



"...AND WHEN HE TOUCHED STALLOR, THE GLOWING NIMBUS WAS TRANSFERRED--

"--AND STALLOR, TOO, WAS ENVELOPED IN A TRANCE.



"TOGETHER, THEY FREED MAXIMUS...

"...AS I WATCHED FROM HIDING, MYSTIFIED--

"--AND HELPLESS.

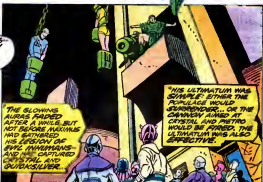
THEN MAXIMUS, SHAKING WITH JUBILANCE AND TRIUMPH, SEEMED TO SPEAK TO THE UNSEEN STARS...

YES, MASTERS--

IT WILL COME TO PASS SOON NOW! WE SHALL GO TO THE OTHERS AND TOUCH THEM WITH THE LIGHT OF YOUR WISDOM--



"--AND THEN WE SHALL CAPTURE THE TWO THROUGH WHOM WE MAY RULE ALL!!



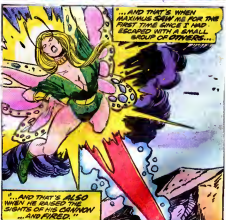
THE GLOWING AURAS FADED AFTER A WHILE, BUT NOT BEFORE MAXIMUS HAD BATHED HIS LEGION OF EVIL MINUTEMEN-- AND HIS CAPTURED CRYSTAL AND QUICKSILVER...

"HIS ULTIMATUM WAS SIMPLE: EITHER THE POPULACE WOULD SURRENDER... OR THE CANYON AIMED AT CRYSTAL AND PISTRO WOULD BE FIRED. THE ULTIMATUM WAS ALSO EFFECTIVE.



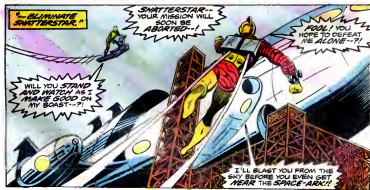
"THEREFORE, WITH MAXIMUS IN CONTROL OF ATILAN--

"...I KNEW IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF YOU WERE TO RETURN UNWARE OF THE SITUATION. SO I TRIED TO WARN YOUR APPROACHING CRAFT...



"...AND THAT'S WHEN MAXIMUS SAW ME FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I HAD ESCAPED WITH A SMALL GROUP OF OTHERS...

"...AND THAT'S ALSO WHEN HE RAISED THE SIGNS OF HIS CANYON ...AND FIRED."



BUT THE ARK HAS NEVER BEEN TRITON'S TRUE OBJECTIVE --
AND SO, HE SWERVES AWAY FROM IT...

MAXIMUS --
BEGIN LOADING THE
INHUMANS INTO
THE ARK...

...WHILE I
SLAY THIS
FOOL CALLED
TRITON!

YES,
MASTER--
YES, INDEED!

AND SO
THE CHASE
BEGINS.

WITH SHATTERSTAR'S RAINBOW-
HUED BOLTS OF DEATH
STREAKING BEHIND HIM--

--TRITON SWOOPS HIS
KICKLED STRAIGHT THROUGH
THE PORTALS OF THE
PALACE ROYAL...

...SKIMS THROUGH MARBLE CORRIDORS...
FLASHES DOWN THE AWESOME HALL
OF HEROES...

...ALWAYS JUST
AHEAD OF SHATTER-
STAR'S SPURTING
DESTRUCTION...

...EVER DEEPER INTO
THE DATACOMBS OF
THE PALACE...

FINALLY REACHING THE LONG AND
PERILOUSLY STRAIGHT CORRIDOR
OF LOST MEMORIES...

NOT MUCH ROOM TO SWERVE
HERE -- HARD TO CONTINUE
EVADING HIS BLASTS...

BUT I
MUST-- I
MUST--!

A SHORT DISTANCE AHEAD,
THE CORRIDOR IS CUT OFF
BY A DEAD-END. TRITON
KNOWS IT.

MOMENTS EARLIER, KARNAK HAD PROBED FOR--AND LOCATED--THE GILL WALL'S INNERMOST POINT OF STRESS. HE THEN STRUCK THAT POINT. GORION AND MEDUSA ARE NOW FREE...

QUICKLY--WE MUST FREE CRYSTAL AND QUICKSILVER...!

SNURG

GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE OLD FALZON HERE--HE'S STILL SMOOZSCIOUS...AND HE'S NOT MUCH GOOD IN A FIGHT ANYWAY...



IN CHAINS, AND UNDER MAXIMUS' SUPERVISION, THOSE INHUMANS CURSED WITH THE GIFT OF SUPER-NORMAL ABILITIES ARE HERDED ABOARD THE MASSIVE SPACE-ARK. NOT ONE OF THEM RESISTS...OR EVEN PROTESTS. THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THEIR BELOVED MONARCH BLACK BOLT WILL BE FREED--IF THEY ACCEPT THEIR FATE PASSIVELY...



AND SO THEY MARCH ABOARD, TO THE BLEAK SOUND OF RATTLING CHAINS... AND TO THE ONE WHO HAS SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM--TO BLACK BOLT--IT IS A TERRIBLE SIGHT...A HELLISH VISION OF HOPELESSNESS AND DESPAIR.

IT MUST END... AND YET, THERE IS NO WAY TO END IT.

ALTHOUGH IT IS INVISIBLE, TRITON SEES THE DEAD-END DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF HIM. HE KNOWS WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



...AND EVEN THOUGH HE SEES IT, HE DOES NOT DECREASE THE SPEED OF HIS SKY-SLED--

--BUT INSTEAD SWERVES AT THE LAST POSSIBLE INSTANT.



A BOLT OF LETHAL DESTRUCTION SCREAMS FROM SHATTERSTAR'S WRIST-DEVICE.

THE INVISIBLE "DEAD-END" SHATTERS WITH THE SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS...

...BUT EVEN AS THE HORROR OF ETERNITY SPLASHES INTO A THOUSAND SHARDS OF RUIN, IT REFLECTS THAT BOLT OF LETHAL DESTRUCTION.

BOTH KARNAK AND TRITON WERE CORRECT: NO ONE COULD EQUAL SNATTERSTAR'S POWER...

THEY WERE UNPREPARED FOR US COUSINS!

BAW! THEY'D HAVE FALLEN JUST AS QUICKLY WITH A YEAR'S ADVANCE NOTICE!

...NO ONE BUT HIMSELF, AND SO, HE FALLS... AND SO, TRITON WONDERS HOW HE WILL BE ABLE TO FACE FREEDOM... WHEN THE FATHER LEARNS OF HIS SON'S LAST FALL.

FOR ONCE, YOUR GRASSING DOESN'T BOTHER ME, GORGON!

CRYSTAL AND PIETRO ARE SAFE NOW THAT WE'VE GOT CONTROL OF THE CANYON...

...AND IF ONLY TRITON HAD DONE HIS PART...

HERE HE COMES...

TRITON-- DID YOU--?

YES-- IT IS DONE.

BLACK BOLT, HOWEVER, REMAINS UNAWARE OF THAT FACT.

HE IS AWARE OF BUT ONE REALITY: THE HORRIBLE SIGHT BELOW HIM.

AGAIN--HOW MUCH CAN ONE BEING TAKE?!

THE ANSWER--AT LAST-- IS ENRAGED TORMENTED CATAclysm!

NEXT:

A BLOCKBUSTER BEYOND BELIEF-- THE DEFINITIVE TURNING-POINT IN THE TRAGIC LIVES OF THE UNCANNY INHUMANS-- AND THE VERY SPECIAL TALE OF THE LONG SILENCE AFTER A LOUD SCREAM...

KING of RUINS!

BLACK BOLT CAN ENDURE NO MORE. HE ADAMS HIS PROTEST, DESTROYING EVERYTHING WITHIN THE REACH OF HIS TERRIBLE VOICE, NEVER REALIZING THAT IT IS ALL SO PITFULLY, TRAGICALLY... UNNECESSARY.